

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
March 21, 2005

Committee Members Present: Matthew Johnston, Gareth Roe, Chris Farrar, Dan Hughes, Scott Shinn, Mike Shaugnessy, Mark Tagal, Micah Shapiro, Diane Cortese

Staff: Susan Golub

Committee Business

Matthew Johnston called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the table.

Public Comment

Kate Martin provided a Lower Woodland update. Parents for Skateparks have reviewed potential sites for alternatives to Lower Woodland. The Aurora Triangle is the highest ranked alternative. The organization has prepared a worksheet to use in analyzing the various alternatives for a skatepark at Lower Woodland. The big issue with the current site is safety, especially for 10 to 16 year olds. They are planning on developing a design for the Aurora Triangle site. A presentation was made to the Green Lake Community Council and the organization was OK with an evaluation of the site. Ms. Martin requested the SPAC agree to PfSP taking a schematic design to the GLCC, and once that is done they will undergo a comparison of the sites using the evaluation worksheet.

Ms. Martin distributed and described the Parents for Skateparks Master Plan for developing skateparks in Seattle.

Dan Barnett: Mr. Barnett expressed an interest in working with the Committee to build great skateparks in Seattle. He questioned the requirement for design/build separation in City projects and noted that the City of Arlington did a design/build skatepark.

Marshall: Marshall expressed the need to have Grindline build new skateparks; he voiced the concern that you can't have just any old contractor do the work and get good parks.

Committee Structure and Membership

The Committee discussed its structure and membership. Matthew Johnston and Gareth Roe are co-chairs of the Committee. Susan Golub provides staff support. A concern was raised that the Committee might get too big, and it was noted that more street skaters should be included. The group decided 12 would be the optimal number of members and the goal would be to bring in valuable members – people who can bring something to the Committee, such as fundraisers. It was also suggested that the Committee include a young person, perhaps a student in need of community service hours. The Committee filled out a matrix showing characteristics of the existing members. The third Monday of

every month is the set meeting date; minutes will be distributed and [after approval by the Committee – staff] posted on various skateboarding web sites.

Project Updates

Ballard Bowl: Puget Sound Skatepark Association is buying granite for a tombstone to be included in the new bowl. It will read: RIP. The Committee expressed a strong interest in reviewing the specs that will be used to hire the subcontractor to build the bowl. Ms. Golub noted that they include the City's review of 5 parks that the bidder has built. She will check into the ability of the Committee to see the specs.

Lower Woodland: Matthew Johnston described his experiences in Olympia on Lobby Day. He met with several state senators lobbying in support for the IAC grant for Lower Woodland. The senators were engaged and interested, and the Committee thanked Matthew for his efforts. The decision on this funding will not be known until the end of the current legislative session.

Regarding the possibility of changing the Lower Woodland location, staff will investigate whether a new site would jeopardize the IAC funding. The Committee decided to evaluate additional sites for Lower Woodland and set the May meeting (May 23rd) as the date they will make a decision. A subcommittee was formed to look into this issue, consisting of Gareth, Matthew, Scott and Micah.

Seattle Center Skatepark Replacement

Staff distributed some initial site planning that Dept. landscape architect Kim Baldwin prepared regarding replacing the Seattle Center skatepark at 545 Elliott Avenue on property owned by King County. The property can accommodate a skatepark the same size or larger than the Seattle Center park and the early design work includes off-street parking, two basketball courts, some landscaping and rest/picnic areas. \$750,000 is being given to the Dept. to develop the new park.

Committee discussion of this project largely focused on the desire of members to have the new park built on the Seattle Center grounds. Suggestions included the green space to the south of EMP and the first floor of the proposed parking garage. Members expressed a concern that 545 Elliott was too far from the Seattle Center, too isolated and too loud. Staff will share these concerns with Seattle Center staff at a March 22 meeting and the Committee will write a letter sharing their concerns.

Dahl Skatepark: Teresa Sommerall, the community organizer for a new skatepark at Dahl field in NE Seattle held an organizing meeting which drew 50 supporters. She is proceeding to gather letters of support from the community in advance of applying for a Neighborhood Matching Fund grant.

The Committee also discussed other projects. Regarding Loyal Heights, Scott Shinn expressed a need to have better criteria in the Skateboard Park Policy that could direct the siting decisions. He suggested looking at the Portland model and that we include 6 tiers of skateparks as is defined in the Parents for Skateparks Master Plan. He has been

working on developing a park at Loyal Heights since 2003 but was recently not recommended for approval of a NMF grant.

West Seattle was discussed as a neighborhood in need of a skatepark. The efforts underway in the Delridge neighborhood were noted and Mike Shaunessy and Matthew Johnston agreed to work together to make something happen in West Seattle.

Policy Revision

Gareth Roe agreed to spearhead the Committee's effort to revise the Skateboard Park Policy. The need for tighter siting criteria is one issue to address. It was also noted that an itemized list, or kit, for how to get a skateboard park built in the City would be good. This could be incorporated into the Policy. Staff noted that this work would be welcomed within the Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Roe will bring back to the Committee a schedule and process for the policy work.

Skateable Terrain

Staff reported back about a positive response by the Dept.'s Project Steering Committee to the Integrated Skateable Terrain paper that the Committee reviewed at its February meeting. Staff will be scheduling follow-up meetings to pursue this idea.

Committee Business

The next meeting will be Monday, April 18 at 100 Dexter.